DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/24/09

has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Lock See Yu-Jahnes (Reg. No. 38,667) on 12/02/09.

        In the claims:

        Please cancel claims 2-4.

        Please amend the claims as follows:

        Claim 1:

        A remote operation method of an information processing apparatus connected to

an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the

method comprising:

accessing the image processing apparatus;

receiving, from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing;

issuing a request for an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received, if an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process authenticates an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; and

remotely operating the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is permitted by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations.

wherein the data received includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the authentication apparatus to execute the authentication process by the add-on software,

wherein the requested authentication process is performed using codes and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus, and

wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

Claim 5:

The method according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the data is an address of the authentication apparatus on the network.

Claim 7:

An image processing system comprising:

a host computer, an authentication apparatus, and an image processing apparatus connected to a network,

wherein the host computer is configured to access the image processing apparatus,

wherein the image processing apparatus is configured to transmit remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, to the host computer, in response to the access from the information processing apparatus,

wherein the host computer is configured to issue a request for an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data transmitted by the image processing apparatus, if an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user,

wherein the authentication apparatus is configured to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the host computer, in response to the request, [[and]]

wherein the host computer is configured to remotely operate the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is permitted by the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus among two or more remote operations,

wherein the data transmitted includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the authentication apparatus to execute the authentication process by the add-on software,

wherein the requested authentication process is performed using codes and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus, and wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus.

Claim 10:

A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a remote operation method of an information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the method comprising:

accessing the image processing apparatus;

receiving, from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image-processing apparatus and data specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing;

issuing a request for an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received, if an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process authenticates an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; and

remotely operating the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is permitted by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations.

wherein the data received includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the authentication apparatus to execute the authentication process by the add-on software,

wherein the requested authentication process is performed using codes and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus, and

wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

Claim 11:

An information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the apparatus comprising:

an accessing unit configured to access the image processing apparatus;

a reception unit configured to receive, from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to accessing by the accessing unit;

a request unit configured to issue a request for an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received by the reception unit, if an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process authenticates an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus;

a remote operation unit configured to remotely operate the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is permitted by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations.

wherein the data received includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the authentication apparatus to execute the authentication process by the add-on software,

wherein the requested authentication process is performed using codes and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus, and

wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5-7 and 10-11 are allowed.

With respect to claim 1:

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art on record either taken singularly or in combination fails to teach "*receiving, from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing; remotely operating the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is permitted by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations, wherein the data received includes add-*

on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the

authentication apparatus to execute the authentication process by the add-on

software, wherein the requested authentication process is performed using codes

and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image

processing apparatus, and wherein the dictionary is contained in the

authentication apparatus on the network" including all the other limitations recited in

claim 1.

4.   Independent claims 7 and 10-11 have similar limitations as claim 1 are, therefore,

also allowed for the same reason set forth above.

5.   Dependent claims 5-6 are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to SHEWAYE GELAGAY whose telephone number is

(571)272-4219. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shewaye Gelagay/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Matthew B Smithers/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437